

REMARKS

Claims

Claims 28 and 29 remain pending in the application with claim 28 being independent. Claim 28 has been amended and claim 29 remains unchanged. Claims 1-27 have previously been canceled. No claims have been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Interview Summary

Applicant appreciates the time that Examiner Yabut spent with their representative Trent K. English on June 18, 2008. During the Interview Mr. English and Examiner Yabut discussed proposed amendments to claim 1 and whether or not the prior art of record taught or suggested the features required by claim 1 as amended. It was agreed that the proposed amendments, as reflected in the current amendment to claim 1, render claim 1 novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. In particular, Trott (U.S. Patent No. 5,729,904), Lim (U.S. Patent No. 5,658,304, and Evans et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,263,972) were discussed. The Examiner agreed that these references did not disclose a slot having a fixed height for receiving a surgical saw blade and that these reference further did not disclose the slot being movable with a pin used to capture and release the surgical saw blade.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Trott (U.S. Patent No. 5,729,904) in view of Lim (U.S. Patent No. 5,658,304). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection to claim 28.

Independent claim 28 recites a surgical saw blade coupler 10 comprising a housing 14 having a body and a head that extends forward from the body. The head has a face and a through bore. A driver 22 includes a driven portion 46 disposed in the

housing and configured to be attached to a drive unit. The driver 22 also includes a locking portion 48 disposed over the face of the head. The locking portion 48 has a through opening aligned with the through bore. The locking portion 48 also includes at least one engaging member 52A-52D. A pin 20 extends through the through bore and the through opening. The pin 20 has a head portion 26 disposed over the locking portion 48. The head portion 26 defines an opening 38A-38D therethrough that is aligned over and positioned to receive the at least one engaging member 52A-52D. The pin 20 is movably mounted to the housing 14 so as to be able to move longitudinally in the through bore and the through opening. A cap 18 is mounted to the pin 20 so as to be spaced above the head portion 26 of the pin 20 to define a slot 44 of a fixed height for receiving a surgical saw blade 12. The slot 44 is movable with the pin 20. Finally, a biasing member 96 acts between the head of the housing and the pin 20 for urging the head portion 26 of the pin 20 and the cap 18 towards the at least one engaging member 52A-52D. The intended purpose of the surgical saw blade coupler 10 is to secure the surgical saw blade 12.

Trott discloses a collet 10 comprising a housing 12 having a body and a head 28 that extends forward from the body. The head has a face and a through bore. A driver includes a driven portion 29 disposed in the housing 12 and configured to be attached to a drive unit. The driver also includes a locking portion 20 disposed over the face of the head. The locking portion 20 has a through opening 42 aligned with the through bore. The locking portion 20 also includes a plurality of projecting pins 32. A push shaft 40 extends through the through bore and the through opening 42. The push shaft 40 has a clamping head 43 disposed over a clamping surface 30 of the locking portion 20. The clamping head 43 is positioned over the projecting pins 32. The push shaft 40 is movably mounted to the housing 12 so as to be able to move longitudinally in the through bore and the through opening. A biasing member 26 acts between the locking portion 20 and the push shaft 40 for urging the clamping head 43 of the push shaft 40 towards the projecting pins 32. The intended purpose of the collet 10 in Trott is to

secure a surgical saw blade 14. However, Trott does not include a slot of a fixed height for receiving the surgical saw blade 14, as required by independent claim 28.

Lim discloses a collet 10 attached to an oscillating handpiece 12. The collet 10 comprises an annular sleeve 18 and a clamping head 20. The clamping head 20 includes a plurality of pins 60 to engage a surgical saw blade hub 70. A spring (not shown) biases the clamping head 20 to either an open or closed position. The sleeve 18 has a distally facing surface 24 against which the clamping head 20 presses a portion of the blade hub 70. This configuration is nearly the same as Trott. Like Trott, Lim does not include a slot of a fixed height for receiving the surgical saw blade 14, as required by independent claim 28. Thus, neither Trott, nor Lim disclose this feature and one having ordinary skill in the art would have no reason to modify Trott or Lim to include this feature.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Trott and Lim in view of Evans (U.S. Patent No. 5,263,972). For the reasons given above with respect to the patentability of claim 28 and the dependency of claim 29 on claim 28, this rejection is now moot.

Applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. Applicant includes fees for the Request for Continued Examination and the One-Month Extension of Time. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2789 in the name of Howard & Howard Attorneys, P.C. for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

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Date

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